

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 21, 2003

The Honorable Tom Ridge
Department of Homeland Security
Nebraska Avenue Center
Washington, D.C. 20528

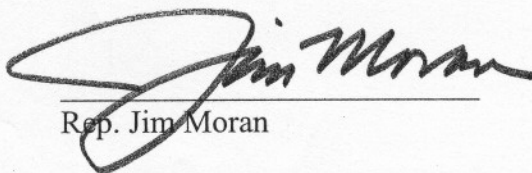
Dear Secretary Ridge:

We write to express our congratulations on your confirmation and pledge our support for your efforts to protect our nation from future threats.

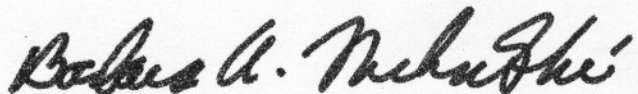
As you know, the legislation establishing the department included language creating the Office of National Capital Region Coordination (ONCRC). This office was created in response to concerns expressed by many of us here in Congress, about the need to improve security and emergency preparedness in the national capital region given this area's unique assets and vulnerabilities. The region is the seat of government, home to approximately 340,000 federal workers, more than 231 federal agencies and offices, the Congress, and the Judiciary. Coordinating response plans and allocating resources among the two states, the District of Columbia, and 17 local jurisdictions, regional authorities, like the transit system, and the private sector, which is responsible for operating critical communication and electrical infrastructure will be an extremely complex, but urgent priority.

With the region now operating under a heightened state of alert, we would like to be briefed on current developments and discuss opportunities on how we could best assist your efforts on behalf of this region.

Sincerely,



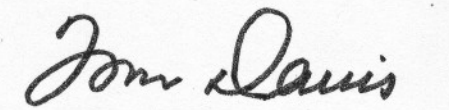
Rep. Jim Moran



Senator Barbara Mikulski



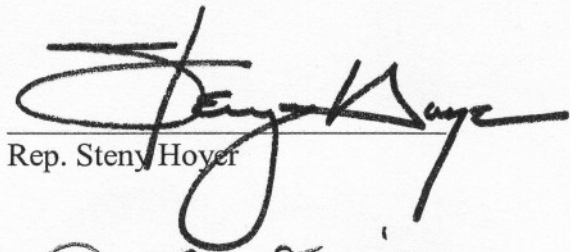
Rep. Frank Wolf



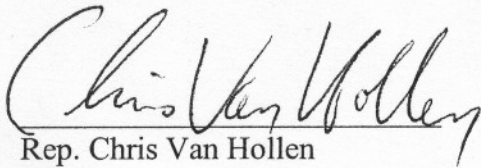
Rep. Tom Davis

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Eleanor Norton'.

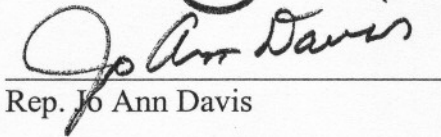
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton

A large, bold, cursive handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Steny Hoyer'.

Rep. Steny Hoyer

A cursive handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Chris Van Hollen'.

Rep. Chris Van Hollen

A cursive handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jo Ann Davis'.

Rep. Jo Ann Davis